

Harlem Throng Greets Herndon as Symbol of Revolutionary Unity of Black and White

Browder Cheered As He Speaks of Breach in Reactionary South

By CYRIL BRIGGS

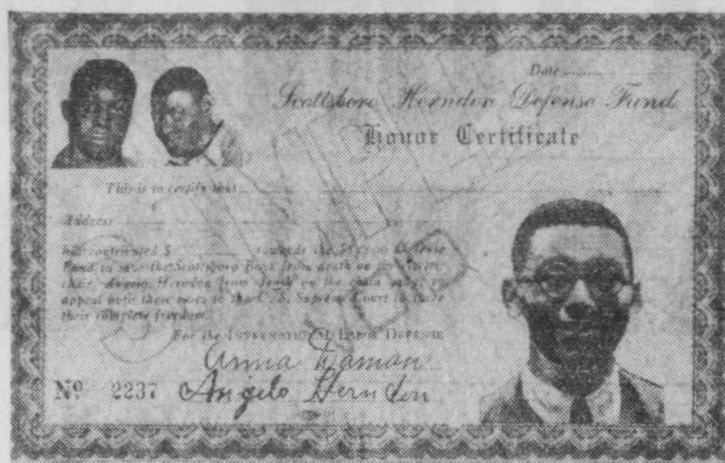
NEW YORK.—In a magnificent display of fighting solidarity of Negro and white workers, nearly 3,000 persons roared a thunderous welcome to Angelo Herndon, young Negro Communist hero of the Atlanta, Georgia, slave code trial, Wednesday night at Rockland Palace, Harlem.

The throng, 70 per cent Negroes, gave a stormy ovation to Herndon, Earl Browder, national secretary of the Communist Party, Joseph Brodsky, Scottsboro defense attorney, and other outstanding leaders of the revolutionary movement. In significant recognition of the Communist Party as the organizer and leader of the fight for Negro liberation, the whole crowd, including many Negroes heretofore unfamiliar with the revolutionary movement, came to its feet singing the Internationale as Browder was introduced.

Mighty Shout Greets Herndon

Another stormy scene ensued as cheers from outside the hall heralded the arrival of Angelo Herndon. As one, and with a mighty shout of welcome, the audience came to its feet cheering and applauding as Herndon was borne up the aisle on the shoulders of white and Negro workers. The Internationale again rang out, as the assembly greeted the heroic Negro, temporarily rescued from torture and death on the Georgia chain gang by the protests and dollars and pennies of the working class.

The meeting, from beginning to end, held the character of a spirited demonstration of iron determination to struggle against Negro oppression, against lynching, hunger, fascism and imperialist war, for Negro liberation and the emancipation of the entire working class. Outlines by various speakers of the Communist program on these vital questions were greeted with cheers and applause, as were appeals to further build and cement the unity



Issued to those who turn their loans to bail fund into outright contributions.

of Negro and white workers being achieved under the bold, correct leadership of the Communist Party.

Browder Greets Herndon

Comrade Browder greeted Herndon in the name of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, and briefly and concisely outlined the issues involved in the Herndon case:

"What is it that made the name of Angelo Herndon travel with such swift wings around the world? It is because Angelo Herndon stands as an outstanding example of those who have begun a revolution in the United States, who have begun to transform the rotten, reactionary solid South of feudal reaction, to organize the forces of revolution in the South, who have started the process of unification of the oppressed black and white in the struggle which is already changing the solid South so that it is no longer so solid.

"The solid South is spoken of as solid because it was the solid basis for reaction in the United States. The blight of this reaction has been not only over the white and Negro toiling masses in the South but over the entire country. Every forward step this country ever made had to be against the solid South because the solid South meant a slave-

owning ruling class. Even capitalism could not go forward except to carry out a four years civil war to smash that solid South."

Fires of Revolt Light Up South

Comrade Browder then showed how after capitalism had won its victory with the aid of the Negro masses, it betrayed the Negro people and "re-enslaved the Negroes in a new slavery, if anything more complete and far-reaching than the old chattel slavery."

"Three years ago," he declared, "there seemed not a ray of hope in the South. There was no light anywhere. Everything was black, dark reaction. Today that is no longer true. Throughout the South today the fires that were lighted by Angelo Herndon and his comrades light up every nook and corner of the South.

"Throughout the South today there are sparks of revolt against this slave empire which are being rapidly fanned into flames of mass struggle, and it was because of the deadly fears of the white ruling class, fear of this program, that they seized upon young Angelo Herndon, the fearless bearer of this program and sentenced him to 18 to 20 years on the chain gang, for the crime of holding

Heroic Negro Tells of Struggles, Which Led to His Persecution

meetings of black and white workers together."

Herndon told of his work among white and Negro unemployed of Atlanta, Ga., the victory of the unemployed workers in forcing the city authorities to continue relief, and Herndon's subsequent arrest and frame-up. He paid a glowing tribute to the powerful protests of white and Negro workers and intellectuals, protests which, he declared, forced the lynch rulers to hold their hands and finally won his temporary freedom on bail pending appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court. He called upon the Negroes present, especially, to take note of the victories won by the united struggles of Negro and white workers, and to repudiate reformist misleaders, like Walter White, William Pickens, George Schuyler, etc., who consistently betray the Negro liberation struggle.

Call For Intensified Fight

Anna Damon, of the national office of the International Labor Defense, Israel Amter, national secretary of the Unemployed Councils, William Fitzgerald, Harlem Section organizer of the I. L. D., Ruby Bates, key witness in the Scottsboro case and others appealed for an intensified campaign for the complete freedom of Herndon, the Scottsboro Boys, and Ernst Thaelmann, courageous leader of the German working class.

Ben Davis, editor of the Negro Liberator and one of Herndon's defense attorneys, told of Herndon's courageous conduct in the Lynch court, of his ringing defiance to the lynch rulers of Georgia and the whole South.

The assembled workers and intellectuals pledged themselves to a relentless fight for the complete freedom of Herndon, and the Scottsboro Boys and Ernst Thaelmann, and emphasized their determination and sincerity with a flood of dollar bills for the Herndon and Scottsboro appeals.